

Fraudulent Inspections:

A WARNING TO THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY



March 3, 2008

Chamber of Commerce Members and Business Owners,

REPORTS OF FRAUDULENT INSPECTIONS

Reports of unethical business practices and unsolicited inspections have been brought to the attention of the Chula Vista Fire Department. In nearby jurisdictions, inspections of fire protection systems and fire safety related issues have been conducted by people claiming they have been sent by the "Fire Marshal" or "Fire Department". These businesses have been victimized because they paid for the services at the time of the false inspection.

Although we have not heard of any incidents in Chula Vista, we want the Chamber of Commerce and business owners to be aware so this does not happen here.

The Chula Vista Fire Department DOES NOT hire private parties to conduct business inspections.

Inspections are done by Fire Department personnel in uniforms who wear department badges and carry City identification. If you have reason to doubt that an inspection is not being conducted by personnel from the Chula Vista Fire Department, do not hesitate to call our office to confirm!

CORRECTION OF ACTUAL VIOLATIONS, IF ANY

The Chula Vista Fire Department has a business inspection program that ensures fire safety as it relates to fire and building codes. At times, code violations can occur and corrections will need to be made. These violations and related corrections will always be addressed in writing by the Chula Vista Fire Department. Some of these corrections can be made by you; others require the services of private or state licensed technical contractors. ***The Chula Vista Fire Department WILL NEVER send contractors to your business.***

If you are approached by someone who tells you they were sent by the "Fire Marshal" or the "Fire Department" to conduct an inspection and cannot show proper identification, please call the Chula Vista Fire Department immediately at (619) 691-5055 or the Chula Vista Police Department at (619) 691-5151. A description of the persons and/or vehicles involved will be helpful and greatly appreciated.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS LETTER, PLEASE CALL US AT (619) 691-5055.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Justin Gipson".

Justin Gipson, Fire Marshal
Chula Vista Fire Department